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Minutes, Nov. 2004

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for November 1, 2004

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Ted Packard, Scott Smith, Stephan Miller, Christopher Tonkin, and Ron Sender. Others present were Dorie Clark, Joey Glushko, and Hank Titerman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Introductions and conversations about bicycling. Dorie Clark, Executive Director of MassBike, introduced herself.

The minutes were approved without correction*.

Special Guest: Dorie Clark. Dorie gave us an overview of the mission of her organization. Dorie told us about MassBike's yearly major events, which are the Bike Festival and Bike Night. MassBike is striving to have input into roadway design in the State. They are also working on the Driver's Manual redesign, including information on bicycle accommodation. They were instrumental in getting legislation passed to require the new version of the manual. They are also working, with sympathetic legislators, on Bicycle Rights and Responsibilities. This initiative gathers all bike-related laws in one place. In addition MassBike is working with the MBTA to increase bicycle accessibility and the numbers of bike racks on buses. Other projects include the Bike to School Project, a guide to forming a bicycle committee and training local police about bike related laws. Dorie suggested that it is important to lobby our local legislators to support funding for local Safe Routes to School projects.

ACTION ITEM: We will contact our representatives and pass on the information about the plan supported by Representative Paulsen.

Bike Night. Jack told us that 175 people attended Bike Night and raised \$14,000. The speakers were good and the mood was upbeat. Ted also attended Bike Night.

Bicycling to school. Ted explained the state of biking to school in Arlington to Dorie. Ron added his thoughts. The issues boil down to safety. Jack explained why we think the Hardy School would be a good for a pilot project. Ron told us that he talked to the head of physical education for the School Department who has obtained a grant to facilitate children getting to school under their own power.

Christopher suggested that children be taught to ride safely and on a safe route before they are allowed to ride to school. Scott volunteered that the TAC could study traffic patterns around the schools and see if they can be altered to make it safer for walking and biking. Part of the problem is that there is no bicycle parking at the schools. Dorie informed us that Ottawa has free bike racks provided by an advertising company.

Joey told us of the possibility of putting Bike to School questions on the yearly Vision 2020 questionnaire and that a group at the High School is devising questions about attitudes towards exercise. Ron asked if we should expand the topic to include walking. Those interested in participating in writing questions were Jack, Stephan, Ted, Scott and Ron.

Bicycle Friendly Community. Jack told us about the application process. Qualities of the Town that are scrutinized are general bicycling indicators, community profile, engineering, education, encouragement of bicycling, enforcement and evaluation. Application is a two step process. The Town applies and is then guided through the rest of the process. Jack suggested that just applying would increase the profile of biking within Town government.

Winter Social. We proposed a date of February 17 for the Winter Social. We discussed possible agenda topics such as Bruce Lederer talking about Bike Rides for Everyone, someone to talk about biking to school or winter riding and possibly a Wild Women fashion show(!).

ACTION ITEM: Ron will find out from Glen Koenig whether there is a new version of the Minuteman Bikeway Video.

This discussion led to Joey suggesting a bike-related movie festival at the Regent some

time this winter as well as inviting Ann Paulsen to the Social.

ACTION ITEM: Joey will check with the owner of the Regent Theatre about the possibility of a Bicycle Film Festival.

Jack, Joey, and Christopher volunteered to work on this possible event as a fund raiser.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

*Indicated a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.